

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**
Meeting of August 14, 2007

LOCATION: 234 N. Central Avenue, Suite 6400, Parks Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ 85004

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Anne Lynch, Jack Stapley, Laurel Arndt, Randy Virden, Salomon Leija

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Jill Kusy

STAFF PRESENT: William C. Scalzo, Assistant County Manager; R.J. Cardin, Director; Tina Allen, Administrator; Jennifer Waller, Westside Superintendent; Teresa Retterbush, Eastside Superintendent; Rhonda Woodward, Administrative Supervisor; Patty Sanford, Financial Supervisor; Dawna Taylor, Public Information Officer; Josh Bontrager, Parks Marketing Intern; Amelia Sowers, HR/Payroll; David Jordan, Park Supervisor-San Tan; Rand Mozingo, Trades/Trails Supervisor; Fareed Abou-Haidar, GIS Technician; Joe Ballengee, Trails division-San Tan; Debbie Lemon, Administrative Assistant and Recorder, and Kevin Costello, County Counsel.

The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the August 14, 2007 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM # 1 – CALL TO ORDER – Anne Lynch, Vice-Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

- Meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m.

ITEM # 2 – ROLL CALL – Roll Call taken - a quorum was present.

ITEM # 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 1, 2007 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS – Anne Lynch, Vice-Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission - *ACTION ITEM*

- Commissioner Arndt motioned to approve the minutes as written.

ITEM #4 - DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM*

- On June 18th, 2007 the new budget was adopted.
- The Waterfall Trail at White Tanks is still closed and currently being worked on by our trails crew that are working hard to complete this very popular trail.
- The Nature Conservancy is in support of our department working on the Vulture Mountain project.

- In Paradise Valley, the Bow Tie property, owned by Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department; Parks is entering in to an agreement for the area to be used for staging purposes. Parks will gain \$20,000.00 and a condition of the agreement is that the property is returned to Parks in the same condition as it was received.
- Commissioner Arndt asked for an update on Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area at the next Commission meeting.

ITEM #5 –BOND INFORMATION – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation and Nissa Maddox, Trust for Public Lands– *INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM*

- Director Cardin introduced Nissa Maddox with the Trust for Public Lands. Nissa Maddox, Program Manager for the Trust for Public Lands introduced three colleagues that were also in attendance; Paul Audley - the Arizona State Director for The Trust for Public Land, Dee Frankforth, The Trust for Public Land and Cheryl Lombard with The Nature Conservancy.
- Ms. Maddox did a PowerPoint presentation for the Commission meeting (attached as a separate PDF file) detailing the potential for success of a park bond measure and the steps needed to be successful in achieving the goal.
- A Technical Assistance letter is the next step for the Parks Department to get assistance from the Conservancy in order to move forward with a Bond issue.
- Commissioner Arndt informed the Commission that a great amount of time will be needed to put in to a Bond election. Nissa Maddox also stated that we are looking at a private funded campaign for a 2008 election and we need to get the word out to the public.
- Assistant County Manager, Bill Scalzo, stated that a presentation will be done to the Board of Supervisors in October to review the Bond issue for Parks.
- Nissa Maddox noted that The Trust for Public Land and The Nature Conservancy are available to help our Department in any way.

ITEM #6 – SAN TAN TRAIL UPDATE – Joe Ballengee, Trails Planner and David Jordan, Park Supervisor – San Tan Mountain Regional Park, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM*

- Handouts were provided to Commissioners by Joe Ballengee. Three major trails have been implemented with the help of CIP funds; Goldmine, Moonlight and the San Tan Trails.
- Within the trails that were implemented, seven miles of trails have now been added to San Tan Mountain Regional Park.
- The Malpais Trail is developed now with the Malpais Mountains being a great visual for the park.
- Commissioner Arndt encourages Parks to visually show the public changes in trails with more visual markers where trail intersections are; i.e. using kiosk type stands with actual maps in them. Joe Ballengee noted that he is using more directional markers at these points and that appropriately marking new areas has also been a concern of his.

ITEM #7 –UPDATE ON THE PLANNING FOR THE NORTH REACH OF LAKE PLEASANT– Jennifer Waller, Superintendent, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – *INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM*

- Jennifer Waller stated that on August 2nd a long range planning meeting was held. Public meetings are scheduled are on September 6th, 12th and 17th. The first two meetings are at the Desert Outdoor Center from 6:30pm to 8:30 p.m., the third meeting is at the Alden Center in Black Canyon City, the same time.
- A key point that will be stressed at all the meetings is that the Agua Fria area was originally deemed a conservation area.
- Director Cardin noted that at a past meeting that assignments were made for organizations to handle certain aspects of the Agua Fria area planning needs; i.e. Bureau of Reclamation has archeological, Game and Fish is overseeing wildlife and Recreation will be handled by our Department; Maricopa County Parks and Recreation.

ITEM # 8– CALL TO THE COMMISSION

- None

Item # 9 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- Eric Gorsegner, Associate Director, Land and Water Policy for the Sonoran Institute introduced himself and stated to the Commissioners that the Institute has been doing some work in the west valley and with the level of development that is going on the threat to open space is there and is real. The sooner the better that action be taken be taken, the Institute is in support of a Parks Bond and they would be available if we needed anything.

Item # 10 – ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, Anne Lynch, Vice-Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission, adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m..

R.J. Cardin, Director/Secretary

Jill Kusy, Chair